

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Review of Part 87 of the)	WT Docket No. 01-289
Commission's Rules Concerning)	
The Aviation Radio Service)	

COMMENTS OF NORTHWEST AIRLINES

Northwest Airlines hereby submits these comments in response to the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("Second FNPRM") in above-captioned proceeding? Commercial air carrier operating a fleet in excess of 400 aircraft on worldwide routes.

In the Second FNPRM, the Commission asked for comments regarding proposed changes to Part 87 of its rules, which provides, among other things, for licensing of stations in the Aeronautical Mobile Satellite (Route) Service ("AMS(R)S"). AMS(R)S is an aeronautical mobile-satellite service reserved for communications relating to safety and regularity of flights, primarily along national and international civil air routes. The Commission has asked whether it should broaden Part 87 to permit additional mobile satellite service ("MSS") providers, including those operating in the 1.6 GHz band, to provide AMS(R)S.²

¹ *In the Matter of Review of Part 87 of the Commission's Rules Concerning the Aviation Radio Service*, Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 01-289, FCC No. 06-148 (rel. Oct. 10, 2006) ("Second FNPRM").

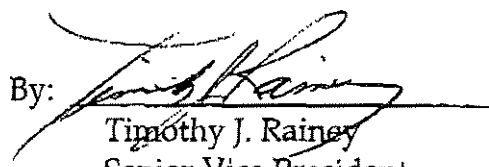
² Second FNPRM at ¶¶ 29-32.

Northwest Airlines supports the Commission licensing Iridium for AMS(R)S and therefore urges the Commission to adopt rules that would enable Iridium to provide AMS(R)S service on its 1.6 GHz frequencies. Northwest Airlines flies to numerous destinations that take its **planes** over land masses and bodies of water in multiple areas. Iridium's system is uniquely suited to serve Northwest Airlines' AMS(R)S requirements. The system has complete coverage of the earth, including oceans, airways and Polar Regions. Making Iridium's system available for AMS(R)S purposes will enhance flight safety by giving Northwest Airlines access to Iridium's unparalleled coverage.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Commission should extend Part 87 AMS(R)S eligibility to Iridium as soon as possible

Respectfully submitted,
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